

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image recording and reproducing apparatus for recording and reproduction a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher, said image recording and reproducing apparatus having a skip reproduction feature for alternating skipping of n frames and continuous reproduction of m frames (n being a positive integer, and m being a positive integer related to a frame switching pattern).

2. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said number of frame to be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

3. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said number of frames are changed to  $(n-d)$  ( $2 \leq d < n$ , d is a positive integer) in case said number of frames is decreased.

4. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously reproduced at the end of a reconstructed image.

5. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously

reproduced at the beginning of a reproduction image.

6. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said skip reproduction feature  
5 is implemented by a processing including a skip processing for only recognizing said frames and a reproduction processing for performing reproduction and output of said frames.

7. The image recording and reproducing apparatus  
10 according to claim 6, wherein said skip reproduction feature is implemented by a processing including skipping of n frame and the subsequent reproduction of m frames.

8. The image recording and reproducing apparatus  
15 according to claim 6, wherein said skip reproduction feature is implemented by a processing including skipping of a series of (n+m) frames, reversed skipping of m frames, and reproduction of m frames.

20 9. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said reproduction is performed on m frames up to the final frame when the difference between the frame just before start of said skipping and the final frame of a reconstructed image is equal to or greater than m frames  
25 and smaller than or equal to (n+m) frames.

10. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said reproduction is performed up to the final frame when the difference between the frame just before start of said skipping and the final frame of a reconstructed image is smaller than m frames.

11. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein reversed skipping of a maximum of m frames is performed within the number of skipped frames in the immediately preceding processing, when the final frame of an image is reached during said skipping.

12. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein adjustment is made to set the remaining number of frames to a multiple of (n+m) at start of said skip reproduction feature and when the number of frames n to be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

13. Image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein adjustment is made to set the remaining number of frames to a multiple of (n+m) at start of said skip reproduction feature and when the number of frames n to be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

14. The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein reproduction is suspended after continuous reproduction of said predetermined m frames when suspension of reproduction is instructed during execution of  
5 said skip reproduction feature.

15. An image reproducing apparatus for reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher, said image  
10 reproducing apparatus having a skip reproduction feature for alternating skipping of n frames and continuous reproduction of m frames (n being a positive integer, and m being a positive integer related to a frame switching pattern).

15 16. An image reproducing method for skip reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher, said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:

20 skipping n frames of said multiple picture signal;  
continuous reproducing m frames of said multiple picture signal; and  
repeating said skipping and continuous reproducing.

25 17. An image reproducing method for skip reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture

signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher, said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:

skipping  $n+m$  frames of said multiple picture signal;  
reverse skipping  $m$  frames of said multiple picture signal;

5 continuous reproducing  $m$  frames of said multiple picture signal; and

repeating said skipping, reverse skipping and continuous reproducing.

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